

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04400 180724Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2657
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4400

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IR SO UR
SUBJ: AID TO SOMALIA

REF TEHRAN 4251 (NOTAL)

1. EVENING OF MAY 17 FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY SPOKE TO ME ABOUT HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SOMALIA. REFERRING TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY VANCE (REFTEL), KHALATBARY SAID THAT HE HAS RECEIVED FURTHER MESSAGES FROM SOMALIA INDICATING ITS EARNEST DESIRE TO PUT SOME LIGHT BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE USSR. FURTHER, SOMALIA IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT ETHIOPIA'S INTENTIONS TOWARD IT AND CLAIMS THAT ETHIOPIA IS RECRUITING AND TRAINING 125,000 GUERRILLAS TO ATTACK SOMALIA AFTER THE HOT SEASON IS OVER. SOMALIA HAS MADE A DESPERATE PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE OF MONEY, MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND OIL. WITH RESPECT TO THE LAST ITEM, SOMALIA HAS BEEN DEPENDING ON OIL FROM THE SOVIET UNION BUT FAILED TO RECEIVE ITS REGULAR SHIPMENT LAST MONTH AND IS CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIETS MAY USE OIL SUPPLY AS A MEANS OF KEEPING SOMALIA IN LINE.

2. KHALATBARY SAID THAT IRAN BELIEVES IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO HELP WEAN SOMALIA AWAY FROM THE USSR, AND IRAN
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WOULD LIKE TO DO ITS SHARE. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS SHORT ON READY CASH AND NOT ABLE TO DO MUCH ABOUT OIL EITHER. PRE-SUMABLY SOMALIA'S REQUEST FOR OIL IS ON A CONCESSIONARY OR DEFERRED PAYMENT BASIS, BUT KHALATBARY DID NOT SAY SO.) HE DID SAY THAT IRAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN A MODEST WAY IN PROVIDING SOME NON-SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT; ITEMS YET TO BE DETERMINED BECAUSE IRAN HAS NOT YET RECEIVED

A LIST OF REQUIREMENTS, AND ALSO TO HELP WITH MILITARY TRAINING.

3. KHALATBARY SAID THAT FROM THE TENOR OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS HE GATHERED WE WERE INTERESTED IN HELPING SOMALIA AS WELL. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE MAY BE CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS BUT WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO REVIEW THE QUESTION WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND URGE THAT COUNTRY TO PROVIDE MONEY AND OIL. OBVIOUSLY AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO DO SO WOULD BE DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PRINCE FAHD TO WASHINGTON. KHALATBARY ASKED THAT WE LET HIM KNOW OUR REACTION TO THIS THOUGHT AND PARTICULARLY TO ADVISE HIM THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN SOMALIS OF THE OUTCOME OF ANY DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SAUDIS.
MIKLOS

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